

Linda Frandsen Volunteers in Haiti

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Club member Linda Frandsen has been volunteering in Haiti since October 25th with two different projects. She plans to continue with this work until around November 23rd, at which time will take a side trip to the Dominican Republic for a vacation.

During her first week in Haiti, Linda joined her nursing friend Judy from Vernon who has been volunteering in Haiti for years in helping an eight member medical team from Pennsylvania at a small hospital one north of the capital Port au Prince in Pierre Payan. Linda notes that by chance, the leader is a Rotarian and Governor Elect for his district. She shares that some of her tasks include cleaning surgical instruments and serving as a circulating nurse for some surgeries which she found to be "quite hysterical."

On November 07, Linda finally got to hand out the sanitary kits she had brought from Kelowna to the girls at a very poor orphanage where the "conditions were dreadful." Fortunately, Linda was assisted by a young mom who works as a female Obstetrician who acted as her interpreter since the common spoken language for the most part is Creole rather than French.



The sanitary kits were produced by a group of women which included Linda and others who have been associated with ISEE Solutions, a grassroots society in Kelowna.

Linda has also become much more aware of the living conditions in Haiti and the reasons for the continuing deplorable state. She shares that three years after the earthquake, there are still over half a million people living in hovels, as very little of the aid promised to Haiti has materialized and what has come through has not been distributed to the poor and destitute. Life continues with no water, no latrines, no schooling, and no other basic needs in the tent cities, while at the same time these cities remain dangerous with many rapes taking place. Linda recommends that we should read a book entitled *Haiti after the Earthquake* by Paul Farmer, a book she has read which has helped her to understand why these conditions still exist today.



Linda expresses her frustrations and sympathy for the Haitian people as she concludes by exclaiming that "It goes on and on and I am not any wiser as to what is the best way to help."